

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Affiliated to the RSGB

President: Dick Brocks G3WHR

Secretary: Charles Shelton G0GJS

Club Call Sign: G0MWT

Chairman: John Bowen G8DET

Treasurer: Brian Thwaites G3CVI

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November 1999

The November Meeting

With today's state of the art ham equipment there are very few who dare contemplate undertaking do it yourself repairs. Even if one can understand the advanced technology it is almost impossible to see the hardware without using a powerful magnifier. The component density is almost unbelievable; one dab of the soldering iron and you've shorted out three tracks. Unless it's a simple and obvious fault it's best left well alone. Things have certainly changed! For the better? No comment! Repairing an HRO or even a 1970's transistorised rig is child's play by comparison!

So what does one do? Chances are one immediately thinks of a household name in the supply of amateur equipment, not a million miles from here. And who in particular does one think of there? Chances are that it's Bob Boddy. Yes, **Bob G6AKL**, the Service Manager at Waters and Stanton.

It was way back in December 1990 that Bob last came to the Club to talk to us. On that occasion He gave us a most entertaining evening showing some of the latest state of the art equipment, discussing it's technical features and servicing methods. The TS950 was all the rage then, by the way. On this occasion he will be repeating that same winning formula by showing us some of the latest equipment, giving honest assessments and letting us into their innermost secrets!

There is, however, one difference on this occasion though! After tea he has a surprise for us. No amount of cunning or cajoling will make him give any idea as to what he has in store for us!

So join us at 7-30 pm on Tuesday, the 2nd. November at the MASC. As always, admission is free but don't forget Ela's raffle!

Dates for Your Diary

- Nov. 2 CARS Mtg. MASC 7-30pm
- Nov. 10 CARS C'tee Mtg. 7-30pm Ela's QTH
- Nov. 27/28 L'don AR & Comp Rally 10am. Picketts Lock
- Dec. 7 CARS Mtg MASC 7-30pm
- Dec. 9 CARS Christmas Dinner The Beehive Gt. W'ham.

The Club Net

The Club Net controller for November is Harry G5HF

Members News

First the sad news.

It is with regret that we record two Silent Keys amongst ex-Club Members.

Peter Neave G4DAN was an active Member until he moved to Mistley. He was a keen constructor and lateral thinker, regularly entering the annual competitions. His call sign was used for NFD's during the eighties. Since moving away he was often seen at rally's..

Frank Piper G3BGO served in the RAF and eventually joined Marconi Radar. He was an active member of Raynet..

Now the good news!

We welcome Jonathon Spooner G8OPI to the Club.

We also extend a welcome to John Palmer M0CQK. John is yet another successful pupil of Tom G4INM, having just passed the 12WPM Morse test. Congratulations John!

'Big' Jim 2E1GUA has also been busy, raising money for the Wireless for the Blind fund. He managed 47 QSO's on 2m and 70cms over two days and raised £72 in sponsorship, more than half from Club Members. Well done Jim!

The Christmas Dinner Thursday 9th. December

David M0BQC and Jill have once again organised our Christmas dinner. The last before the Millennium, it will be held at The Beehive Gt. Waltham. Tickets are £13-50 each and a wide ranging menu has been arranged. See him at the next meeting or ring him on 01245-602838 and select your menu choices.

The 1999 AGM - Secretary's Report.

Charles Shelton G0GJS

The CARS 1999 AGM held at the Marconi Sports and Social Club on October 6th. was a non-event !!

No angry members clambered over chairs to storm the top table to ensure they secured the jobs of the ousted Committee and this was undoubtedly due to the precise agenda prepared and quickly projected by Colin G0TRM and Chairman John G8DET's jocular rapid fire style of management which made certain that there were no interruptions and few opportunities for members to heckle.

The 1998 Minutes written by Andrew G4KQE were read by Colin and the audience in approving them gave a superb imitation of remembering all that had happened twelve months' previously.

John in his report as retiring Chairman indulged in nostalgia concerning CARS' previous and present locations; he thanked the Committee for their services and in particular expressed well deserved appreciation for the flourishing raffle activity managed by Ela G6HKM and the N/L prepared by our editorial team - Geoff G7KLV and Colin. He spoke of his satisfaction of the way in which CARS continued to operate and of the exceptional spread of expertise contained within the membership. He also gave us some mouthwatering details of his 'hob-knobbing' with the Mayor and the sumptuous spreads which he helped to consume when taking part in the twinning celebrations of Backnang/Annanay/Chelmsford which he says gave him and Pauline the opportunity "to wear their best bibs and tuckers". He used the occasions to good effect and spread CARS written-up propaganda throughout the assembled counsellors and journalists, particularly the idea that the eventual premises for the housing of the Marconi memorabilia should include a radio room based on advice from a specialist sub-committee comprising some of our members. A well deserved plug by him for his Web page for CARS activities brought a heckle (John had slowed down momentarily) from Gwyn G4FKH that he didn't like it but had neither the expertise, inclination or the time to 'put it right' - some things never change!

The Secretary (yours truly) read his report from a carefully

prepared script, which had been cleared with his solicitors, after offering to take off his newly heeled shoes to compensate for a stubborn microphone stand. Charles G0GJS said that an average of 11 Committee members had attended the monthly meetings generously hosted in the main by Ela G6HKM at her QTH. Referring to members meetings, the point was made that the speakers who dealt with a variety of highly technical and interesting topics were with one exception, all members of CARS. Fund raising events were emphasised - junk, rally and table top sales - which combined with increased revenues from the sale of raffle tickets, ensure that our finances are kept at good levels. A well designed questionnaire produced and circulated to members by Carl G3PEM generated a very good response which will assist your Committee in analysing members' interests and requirements. An abridged version of the Minutes continues to be broadcast on the nets, usually on 28.325 MHz. at 2030 local time on the Tuesday following the Committee meeting and all are welcome to join in and debate your Committee's actions and the business of the Society, but the use of linears to make a particular point is not encouraged. Another fine Christmas Dinner is in the planning stage for December 9th at The Beehive. The menu items and indeed the printed menu itself, are of 5 star hotel calibre thanks to the enterprise of David M0BQC and his wife Jill. The value is quite extraordinary.

Your President Dick G3WHR, probably one of the top RF senior designers in the country and still actively engaged in the manufacture of electronic equipment, in his report spoke of the technological changes and innovations that were occurring and he paralleled CARS activities, such as table top sales linked with the use of local community radio for publicity purposes and the recent Web site creation to advise interested parties of the purpose, importance and activities undertaken by our Society. Dick said that the excellent achievements by CARS members in D/F competitions continues. He praised the video productions of members and events by Fred G6FXM. The recent invitations to Louis Varney G5RV and Stanley Wood (former Marconi historian) to become Honorary Members of CARS also reflected change and innovation. He spoke of the new Roy Martyr G3PMX Trophy generously presented by Ela Martyr G6HKM which will be awarded at each AGM to a member selected by a small 'elders' sub-committee for excellence in amateur radio.

Our Treasurer Brian G3CVI produced a perfectly balanced set of Accounts which he certainly understood and subsequently - following an amusing and extraordinary family history tale based on their relationship with Sir Henry Wood - promenaded them before members who could only gulp "yes!". In the round, we are in good shape thanks to the members support of the raffle and other important fund raising activities by certain enterprising members viz Ela, Colin, Chris G0IPU, and Geoff G7KLV. Subs will not be increased this year.

Dick having retired the Committee, our Vice President Harry G5HF was surprised to find that John was proposing him to introduce a motion electing the new Committee *en bloc*. Never at a loss, Harry switched to hypothetical mode which said that if he was not a candidate then he would propose..... Within two minutes we were re-elected with the exception of Geoff Cockerill G2AMQ who is standing down to become Chairman of the Essex Centre of the IEE. (CARS have spawned three Presidents for the RSGB and now a Chairman for the IEE - how do we do it?) His place was taken by past CARS secretary Gwyn Williams whereupon yours truly made a mental note to stop blaming his predecessor for his own mistakes!

The first recipient of the Roy Martyr Trophy for Excellence in Amateur Radio really had no competition. Some members

could have matched his record of tutoring his children to become licensed, running nets, frequently operating on many bands, first class construction but trailed on his success with achieving novice radio status for numerous cubs and scouts. His *piece de resistance* was in persuading and encouraging his wife to become a member of our fraternity and Rhona is now licensed. However, we understand that it has cost him, and Chris Chapman G0IPU is now qualified in midwifery, cooking, washing and ironing, nursing, baby minding and changing, jam making and fruit bottling, baking, housework and his cross stitch embroidery wins many local W.I competitions! Seriously folks, it couldn't happen to a nicer chap, Roy would have been delighted and we all congratulate you Chris.

The Jackpot Raffle was won by a Committee Member and senior editor Geoff G7KLV who is now entitled to a free copy of the N/L which he produces each month. (Note to fellow Committee members : -"Have we shot ourselves in the foot? Who fixed the draw this month?").

Under 'AOB' the writer had the opportunity to brief members on the excellent accommodation provided by fellow member Brian Miller SWL (he has passed the RAE and is working on his Morse) and his wife Barbara at their large very finely appointed Victorian house in Ledbury, Worcs.. The six holiday apartments are all self contained, superbly decorated and housekeeping is of the highest standard. The large, spacious high ceiling Victorian rooms all have their individual water, heating and electricity - everything is supplied except food for the well appointed kitchens. High National Tourist Board ratings have been achieved. Your Secretary has details if required and viewed most of the suites when he and 'Ronnie' stayed there last month. Brian's residence is becoming very popular and five South African visitors were returning on the day we left. He will be at the November CARS meeting and he is also a member of the Malvern Club. Brian is seeking advice on antennas - he has several 50/60 foot poplars in his well kept two acre garden.

In winding up the evening, Carl G3PEM presented his analysis of the return of the questionnaire by members which revealed enlightening data and some quite surprising conclusions which will be of assistance to the Committee in planning future activities.

As I returned to my car, I mused that perhaps the Committee wasn't doing such a bad job after all..... at least we had all been re-elected. However, perhaps they will be looking for a new Secretary after this diatribe has been digested.

He does go on, doesn't he! We've had to hold over a report on our visit to the PO sorting office 'till next month.

Forthcoming Meetings and Events.

By long standing tradition we have always held the Junk Sale in November and a Film Night in January. The Committee thought the Junk Sale was too close to Colin's successful Table Top Sale last July, and the Film Night was just about past it's sell by date. It is time for a change! So, we have scrapped Film Night and substituted the Junk Sale for January.

Meanwhile there is an expansion of the Industrial Museum's educational activities. There will be up to four Open Days each year, each with a particular theme. It is proposed to hold a Communications themed Open Day on the same Saturday as International Marconi Day, at the end of April. This will avoid the traditional holiday month of July and be more pleasant for operators who have endured overheated conditions in the past! It is proposed to run two stations and have sideshows of SSTV and Morse, with a visual reader, helpful posters, information and with Club Members acting as hosts!

Joint Editors

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Deadline for the next N/L is Wednesday 15th.November.